

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for changing ~~the distribution of the~~ a distribution of a loading pressure prevailing in ~~the press~~ a press nip of a shoe press, which shoe press comprises a number of adjacent loading elements (K) acting on the press shoe (70), ~~the first~~ a first end of said elements being supported ~~on the~~ on a supporting beam (12) of the shoe press and ~~the other~~ another end on the press shoe (70), ~~characterized in that~~ comprising the following steps:

moving the loading elements (K) ~~are moved in the~~ in a machine direction (MD) in the ~~space~~ a space between the press shoe (70) and the supporting beam (12) by acting on the loading element (K) at least at the end adjacent to the press shoe;

arranging at least one transfer element (225, 226, 185) in conjunction with the press shoe (70) wherein the at least one transfer element is moved in a transverse direction (CD) of a machine and by means of which a backing element (28) of the loading element (K) is moved directly or via a transmission mechanism in such ~~manner~~ a manner that the end adjacent to the press shoe is moved in the machine direction (MD) in relation to the press shoe (70), and that the end of the loading element adjacent to the supporting beam (12) can be caused to freely assume a position in relation to the supporting beam (12), preferably at least during ~~the transfer~~ a transfer.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the loading element is acted on by at least one bar element, which is moved in ~~the transverse~~ a transverse direction (CD) of the machine.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the loading element (K) is acted on via a transmission, wherein an eccentric element acts on the loading element while the eccentric element is acted on by a bar element.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the loading element is acted on by an eccentric toothed gear, which is rotated by a toothed bar element.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that a projection part (28) formed at the end of the loading element (K) adjacent to the press shoe is moved between guide surfaces (31, 32) extending in the machine direction (MD) while transfer elements laid in the transverse direction of the machine produce a movement in the machine direction (MD).

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that a pressure medium is supplied into the space between the supporting beam (12) and the end of the loading element (K) adjacent to the supporting beam to reduce lateral forces.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the distribution of ~~the loading~~ a loading pressure is adjusted during operation of the machine.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the distribution of ~~the loading~~ a loading pressure is adjusted continuously on the basis of measurement data.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the ~~press beam~~ press shoe (70) is acted on by ~~a loading~~ the loading element (K) comprising a cylinder-piston unit.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for changing ~~the loading~~ a loading pressure prevailing in the ~~press~~ a press nip of a shoe press, said shoe press comprising a number of adjacent loading elements acting on the press shoe (70), the first end of said elements being supported on ~~the supporting~~ a supporting beam (12) of the shoe press and ~~the other~~ another end on the press shoe (70), **characterized** in that the apparatus comprises c o m p r i s i n g :

means for moving at least the end of the loading element (K) adjacent to the press shoe (70) in ~~the machine~~ a machine direction (MD); ~~and~~

wherein the means for moving at least the end of the loading element (K) adjacent to the press shoe (70) includes at least one transfer element (225, 226, 185) arranged in conjunction with the press shoe (70), said at least one transfer element being movable in a transverse direction (CD) of a machine wherein the backing element (28) of the loading element (K) is moved directly or via a transmission mechanism; and

means for reducing lateral forces between supporting beam and the end of the loading element adjacent to the supporting beam (12).

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 11, **characterized** in that ~~the transfer~~ a transfer means moving the loading element (K) comprise actuating devices arranged in or near the end area of the press shoe (70).

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, **characterized** in that the loading element (K) is a cylinder-piston combination.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, **characterized** in that it comprises guide surfaces (31, 32; 200) and/or guide elements (80, 180) arranged in conjunction with the press shoe (70) for guiding the motion of the loading element, especially to make it move in the machine direction (MD).

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 11, **characterized** in that the at least one transfer element (225, 226) is provided with a guide surface (227, 228; 235, 236) and the loading device is provided with a mating surface (229, 230, 161) so that the guide surface moves the loading device by the mating surface.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 11, **characterized** in that ~~the transfer~~ a transfer means comprise two bar elements (225, 226) which together influence ~~the position~~ a position of the loading element in the machine direction (MD).

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 11, **characterized** in that ~~the transfer~~ a transfer means consist of an eccentric wheel, ~~such as~~ an eccentric toothed gear (186), which is driven by a toothed bar element (185) connected ~~to the~~ to actuating devices.

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, **characterized** in that the means for reducing the lateral forces between the supporting beam (12) and the loading element (K) end adjacent to the supporting beam comprise at least one conduit (C3, 22) for conveying a pressure medium into the space between the supporting beam (12) and the loading element (K).

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 11, **characterized** in that ~~the adjusting~~ adjusting devices are arranged in a space formed in the press shoe (K).